

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 05894 042015Z

62

ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-10 L-03 NEA-10

NSAE-00 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 USIA-15 TRSE-00

SAJ-01 SS-20 NSC-10 ACDA-19 OMB-01 DRC-01 /132 W

----- 028576

R 041755Z DEC 73

FM USMISSION NATO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3055

SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

USNMR SHAPE

USLOSACLANT

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 5894

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/79

TAGS: PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING 3 DECEMBER

REF: (A) USNATO 5740; (B) STATE 235733; (C) STATE 235649

BEGIN SUMMARY: AT 3 DECEMBER MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP (SG) CONTINUED DISCUSSION OF STUDIES ON COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS; CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF DETERRENCE; ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY FOR THE FALL 1974 NPG MEETING; AND, POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF EARLY COMBINED USE. U.S. REP DREW ON GUIDANCE PROVIDED IN REF. (B) IN STATING U.S. VIEWS. VIEWS EXPRESSED BY OTHER SG MEMBERS GENERALLY ACCORDED WITH U.S. POSITIONS. DISCUSSIONS WILL BE CONTINUED AT NEXT SG MEETING ON 12 DECEMBER FOR COUNTRIES WHO WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. SG INITIATED DISCUSSION OF STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. SG SUPPORTED AD HOC STUDY TEAM APPROACH FOR CONDUCTING STUDY. UK, FRG, CANADA AND NETHERLANDS, PLUS US, WISH TO PARTICIPATE. THERE WAS GNERAL AGREEMENT AMONG SG MEMBERS THAT ONE OR COMBINATION OF LARGE COUNTRIES--U.S., UK, FRG--SHOULD LEAD STUDY. UK AND FRG INDICATED PREFERENCE FOR U.S. TO TAKE LEAD. END SUMMARY.
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PAGE 02 NATO 05894 042015Z

1. AT 3 DECEMBER MEETING, NPG STAFF GROUP CONTINUED DISCUSSIONS OF PREVIOUS WEEK (REF. (A)) ON SEVERAL ITEMS OF UNFINISHED BUSINESS AS WELL AS NEW STUDIES ARISING OUT OF THE HAGUE NPG MEETING. U.S. REP (WOODWROTH) DREW ON GUIDANCE

PROVIDED IN REF. (B).

A. COMMUNICATING NATO'S INTENTIONS. U.S. REP SAID THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF AN AD HOC GROUP OF COUNTRIES TO CONDUCT STUDY, U.S. WOULD HAVE NO OBJECTIONS TO STUDY BEING PREPARED BY IS. CANADA AND NORWAY AGREED. SG CHAIRMAN (SEIM) SUMMED UP PAST AND PRESENT SG DISCUSSION OF THIS SUBJECT BY NOTING APPARENT CONSENSUS FOR IS, UNDER AEGIS OF NPG PERM REPS, TO PREPARE STUDY. HE SAID THAT UNLESS CONTRARY VIEWS WERE EXPRESSED BY COUNTRIES STILL WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AT NEXT SG MEETING, HE WOULD ASSUME FULL AGREEMENT AND PROCEED TO INITIATE THE STUDY.

B. CONCEPTUAL ANALYSIS OF DETERRENCE. U.S., UK, AND NETHERLANDS SAID THEY BELIEVED THAT PHASE II PAPER ON "ASPECTS OF DETERRENCE" PROVIDED ADEQUATE TREATMENT OF THE SUBJECT AND THAT THERE WAS NO NEED FOR ADDITIONAL STUDY BY NPG AT THIS TIME. SEVERAL SG MEMBERS WERE WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS AND WERE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO EXPRESS VIEWS AT NEXT SG MEETING.

C. POLITICAL IMPLICATIONS OF EARLY COMBINED USE.

ITALIAN REP (COL. AZZARI) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES WERE LOOKING INTO ARGUMENTS THAT SHOULD BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION IN CONSIDERING VALUE OF FURTHER STUDY OF THIS SUBJECT. HE HOPED TO BE ABLE TO CIRCULATE SOMETHING TO SG MEMBERS WITHIN NEXT SEVERAL WEEKS.

D. ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY FOR FALL 1974 NPG MEETING. U.S., UK, FRG, AND NETHERLANDS SAW NO NEED FOR PERM REPS TO REQUEST MILITARY AUTHORITIES TO PREPARE ILLUSTRATIVE STUDY FOR FALL 1974 NPG MEETING. SG CHAIRMAN NOTED EMERGING CONSENSUS ON THIS QUESTION, AND SAID THAT SG MEMBERS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS WOULD BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT AT NEXT SG MEETING.

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 05894 042015Z

2. SG INITIATED DISCUSSION OF STUDY OF IMPLICATIONS OF NEW WEAPONS TECHNOLOGY. THERE WAS GENERAL SUPPORT FOR APPROACH OF HAVING AD HOC GROUP OF COUNTRIES PREPARE STUDY. UK, FRG, CANADA AND NETHERLANDS WISH TO PARTICIPATE. U.S. REP CONFIRMED THAT U.S. WOULD BE FULL PARTICIPANT. NORWAY DOES NOT WISH TO PARTICIPATE. BELGIUM, GREECE, AND ITALY DID NOT HAVE INSTRUCTIONS AND EXPECT TO INDICATE AT NEXT SG MEETING WHETHER THEY WISH TO PARTICIPATE. LENGTHY DISCUSSION ENSUED ON QUESTION OF WHO WOULD LEAD STUDY. THERE WAS GENERAL AGREEMENT THAT ONE OR A COMBINATION OF LARGE COUNTRIES--U.S., UK, FRG--SHOULD LEAD STUDY. FRG REP (COL. THYES) SAID HIS AUTHORITIES BELIEVE U.S. SHOULD TAKE LEAD. U.S. REP ACKNOWLEDGED LARGE ROLE THAT U.S. MUST NECESSARILY PLAY IN THE STUDY, BUT REMAINED NON-COMMITTAL ON QUESTION OF LEADER-

SHIP. HE SAID HIS AUTHORITIES AT THIS STAGE WERE PRIMARILY INTERESTED IN LEARNING VIEWS OF OTHER NPG MEMBERS. IN PRIVATE CONVEESATION AFTER SG MEETING, UK REP (STEWART) SAID THAT HIS AUTHORITIES HAD NOT REACHED FIRM CONCLUSION ON LEADERSHIP. HE SAID, HOWEVER, THAT HE BELIEVED THEY WOULD FAVOR FOLLOWING ALTERNATIVES, IN DESCENDING ORDER OF PREFERENCE: (1) U.S.; (2) U.S./FRG; (3) FRG/UK. HE FELT THAT IF CO-CHAIRMEN ARE AGREED UPON, FRG SHOULD BE INCLUDED.

3. SG CHAIRMAN NOTED TERMS SUCH AS "CURRENT DEVELOPMENTS" AND "WHOLE COMPLEX OF QUESTIONS SURROUNDING THE TACTICAL USE OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS" THAT WERE USED BY PHASE II STUDY TEAM IN CONNECTION WITH THEIR PROPOSAL FOR NPG TO PREPARE STUDY ON NEW TECHNOLOGY. HE ASKED PHASE II REPS TO COMMENT ON THESE TERMS. U.S. AND UK REPS SAID THAT STUDY GROUP WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY REFINE SCOPE OF STUDY, BUT NOTED THAT DEVELOPMENTS WHICH IT MIGHT CONSIDER COULD INCLUDE IMPROVEMENTS IN ACCURACY AND TARGET ACQUISITION, WEAPONS EFFECTS, INCLUDING LOWER YIELDS, AND WEAPONS SAFETY. THEY NOTED THAT THE "COMPLEX OF QUESTIONS" WOULD PROBABLY INCLUDE MANY OF THE CONSIDERATIONS WHICH HAVE BEEN CENTRAL TO MANY NPG STUDIES, E.G., DETERRENCE AND ENEMY PERCEPTIONS, COLLATERAL DAMAGE, POLITICAL CONTROL, FLEXIBILITY, EFFECT ON MILITARY CAPABILITIES AND IMPLICATIONS FOR MILITARY BALANCE. SG CHAIRMAN RAISED QUESTION FOR FUTURE CONSIDERATION OF WHAT ROLE, IF ANY, MILITARY COMMITTEE AND/OR OTHER MILITARY

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 04 NATO 05894 042015Z

AUTHORITIES SHOULD HAVE IN STUDY.

4. U.S. REP CONFIRMED, PER GUIDANCE IN REF. (B), THAT U.S. WOULD GIVE STRATEGIC BALANCE BRIEFING AT SPRING NPG MEETING. U.S. REP, DRAWING ON REF. (C), SAID THAT DATES OF 4-5 JUNE FOR SPRING 1974 NPG MEETING WERE ACCEPTABLE TO U.S. NOTING HOWEVER THAT NPG MEMBERS MAY NEED TO CONSIDER ADJUSTMENT IF THERE IS ANY CONFLICT WITH DPC DATES.

5. NEXT SG MEETING WILL TAKE PLACE ON WEDNESDAY, 12 DECEMBER. THIS WILL BE LAST MEETING IN 1973. SG WILL RENEW MEETINGS IN MID-JANUARY.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 02 APR 1999
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 04 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: willialc
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973NATO05894
Document Source: ADS
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: 11652 GDS-12/31/79
Errors: n/a
Film Number: n/a
From: NATO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731255/abqcedrz.tel
Line Count: 155
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: n/a
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) USNATO 5740; (B) STATE 235733; (C) STATE 235649
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: willialc
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 22 AUG 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <22-Aug-2001 by elyme>; APPROVED <10-Oct-2001 by willialc>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: NPG STAFF GROUP MEETING 3 DECEMBER
TAGS: PFOR, NATO
To: STATE
SECDEF INFO USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN
USNMR SHAPE
USLOSACLANT
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005